
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES

July 26, 2021

Members Present

Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Samantha Kaag, Ryan Lineaweaver, Jim Keller, Associate Member Nicole Phillips, Dean Murray Interim Borough Manager

Call to Order

Mr. Kaag called the meeting to order at 6:05p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the minutes of June 28, 2021. Motion carried.

WHYY- Composting Program

Mr. Kaag informed everyone that at the bottom of the agenda is a link to an article about a municipal wide composting program being done in Media, PA. Every week the boroughs public works department in Media, PA collects a bucket from the resident's houses that contained all their food scraps. They were able to reduce the boroughs waste by 30% due to this program. Mr. Kaag stated that he is going to do some research and see if this is something West Reading could potentially do as well. Mr. Murray pointed out that to contract this out to another company it might become too pricy and to have the public works department take care of this like in Media, PA it will take time away from other projects.

Renewable Energy Project

Mr. Keller announced that he is looking into a third-party supplier called IGS. This company only works with municipalities. They would help provide the borough with renewable electricity and natural gas that comes from off gassing of landfills. The borough's contract with AEP is locked in until April 2022 at about 5.33 cents per kWh. Mr. Keller explained that IGS would contact AEP to see if they would be able to provide renewable electricity at the same price we are already paying or cheaper. Mr. Keller also stated that he is reaching out to AEP to see if they would be able to provide the borough with renewable electricity and at what rate. Ms. Kaag suggested applying for a grant to help offset the cost of using renewable electricity as well as the solar panel project.

Mr. Kaag reminded everyone that he is still looking into buying back the borough's street lights from Met-Ed. The borough would need to pay a small fee to Met-Ed to take the lights down and then put in new lights. It would cost about 250 dollars per light to take down. Mr. Murray suggested that we change the light heads we currently have over to LED lights to help save time and money. Mr. Kaag stated that the borough would still have to pay Met-Ed for maintenance and upkeep if we keep their lights.

Fall Borough Clean Up

Ms. Kaag suggested that the fall clean up should be September 19th the day after Fall Feast. That same weekend is International Coastal Clean Up Day and Ms. Kagg suggested that we pair with them. Mr. Kaag suggested that we have the meeting point for the clean up be at the West Reading Pavilion again. Mr. Lineaweaver made a motion to have the West Reading Fall Clean Up be held on September 19th from 10am-2pm at the West Reading Pavilion with a rain date of September 26th and seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion carried.

Ms. Kagg suggested that we do a smaller clean up in between the fall and spring clean ups. She proposed the idea of doing something during the week once a month for an hour. Residents could do a walk around West Reading with a trash bag possibly doing a different part of West Reading each month. Ms. Kaag reminded the EAC members that another Garden Clean Up is taking place on August 1st.

Public Comment

Representing the West Reading Garden Ms. Kaag stated that the garden would be interested in doing some type of composting. She brought up that the soil at the garden is in need of some nutrients and composting could be a great way to help give it some much needed help.

Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Murray to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Phillips
Associate Member